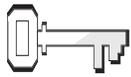


Seashore Song



References

Exodus 14; 15;
Psalm 106:1–12;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*, pp. 287–290



Memory Verse

“I will sing to the
LORD, for he is
highly exalted”
(Exodus 15:1, NIV).

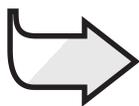


Objectives

The children will:
Know that God
loves and protects
His people.

Feel safe and secure in
God’s love for His people.

Respond by singing praises
to God for His protection.



The Message

God loves
and cares for us.

Monthly Theme

The Bible teaches us that we belong to the family of God.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The lesson briefly reviews the familiar story of the Israelites safely crossing the Red Sea. The major emphasis of the lesson is placed on the song of praise led by Moses and Miriam, as recorded in Exodus 15:1–18, 21. Moses and Miriam lead the people in singing praises to God for His protection and miraculous leading.

This is a lesson about community.

Banded together to leave Egypt, the Israelites formed a community—a body with common heritage and culture. They developed their own “family” under God’s protection and guidance. The Red Sea experience teaches us that we can trust God to take care of His people. Today we can experience being part of God’s family by sharing in the Christian community. God offers us the same protection and guidance that He gave to Israel.

Teacher Enrichment

“Dance. In the Bible dancing is always connected with rejoicing. The nature of this rejoicing may be religious, festive, or merely joyous. The Biblical dance bears little resemblance to the society dance (or even to the so-called “square dance”) of modern Western civilization. The Biblical version was usually performed by women, but on rare occasions they were joined by men. Even on these occasions there is no evidence of physical contact between the sexes.

“Dancing was frequently performed with the accompaniment of musical instruments (Ex. 15:20; Judges 11:34) . . . Frequently, however, dancing had no religious significance, but was simply an expression of special festive joy (Jer. 31:4), and as such is often contrasted with mourning (Ps. 30:11; Lam. 5:15; Luke 7:32)” (*The SDA Bible Dictionary*, pp. 262, 263).

“Tabret. Translated ‘tambourine’ or ‘timbrel.’ Authorities on ancient musical instruments agree that the *toph* was a hand drum, made of a wooden hoop and very probably 2 skins. It was beaten by the hands, and must have made a kind of tom-tom sound. It was played mostly by women, and used as an accompaniment to singing and dancing, to accentuate the beat” (*The SDA Bible Dictionary*, p. 1086).

Room Decorations

Musical instruments: Music and praise are important parts of the stories. Have a table with musical instruments that the children can experiment with. Provide the opportunity to create their own instruments by filling jars with different levels of water and hitting them with a stick, or making shakers. These may be used in Prayer and Praise.

Temple: Create a temple scene using felt pictures. Contrast this with pictures of churches today.

3D pictures: Have a number of posters or books of 3D pictures, where the true picture emerges as you look at the “picture.” (The Book of the Law was hidden; we have to study to find the truths of the Bible.)

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Tambourines</i> B. <i>Impossible Challenges</i> C. <i>Human Knot</i>	paper plates, stapler, beans or dried rice or small stones, stickers or crayons none none
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children’s Mission</i> church-shaped box or musical instrument none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	two large sheets words to Moses’ and Miriam’s songs, tambourines (see Readiness A) tambourines (optional), chalkboard Bibles, large pan/bucket sand, four pieces of paper
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Impossible Maze</i>	three or four baking pans, blindfold, water, plastic bags
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Separating the Red Sea</i>	blue construction paper, crayons or markers, sandpaper or light brown paper

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been, what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week's memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week's lesson study.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- 2 small paper plates per child
- stapler
- beans or rice or small stones
- stickers or crayons

A. Tambourines

Say: **We are going to make a tambourine.** To demonstrate, place two plates facing each other and staple together. Put dried beans, rice, or small stones between the plates before the final staple. Decorate using stickers or crayons. Let the children use their tambourines as you sing a praise song together.

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it fun to make and play a tambourine? How do you feel when you sing and play your tambourine? When do you feel like praising God? Have you ever been so happy that you want to hop and jump for joy? That was just how the Israelites felt in today's story. When God rescued them out of an impossible situation, they just wanted to praise Him. God cares for us as much as He cared for the Israelites. Let's say today's message together:**



GOD LOVES AND CARES FOR US.

Say that with me.

B. Impossible Challenges

Form small groups. Ask the groups to try one or more of the following challenges:

1. Stand on your nose.
2. Put your elbows together behind your back.
3. Put sticky notes on the ceiling.
4. Jump 10 feet from a standing position.

Debriefing

Ask: **Did anyone succeed in doing any of the tasks? Why not? How did you feel when you realized they were impossible? In today's story the Israelites were in an impossible situation. God can help us when we are in difficult situations. He loves us and takes care of us. Let's say today's message together:**



GOD LOVES AND CARES FOR US.

Say that with me.

C. Human Knot

Say: **Let's join hands and form a circle.** There should be no more than 10 chil-

dren to a group. **Without letting go, weave in and out and try to form a human knot. You can step over or crawl under hands, but you cannot let go of your neighbor's hand.** When they are in a knot say: **Now untangle yourselves without letting go of your neighbor's hand.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What happened when you tried to form a knot? How did you feel when you were tangled up? How did you feel when someone offered to help you sort it out? Jesus loves and cares for us and is always there to help us sort out the tangles in our lives. In our lesson today, God rescued the Israelites from an impossible situation. Let's say today's message together:**



GOD LOVES AND CARES FOR US.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

**Any
Time**



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Clap Your Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 4)
- "Psalm 66" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 11)
- "Come Into His Presence" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 14)
- "Lord, We Praise You" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 17)
- "Join With Us" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 20)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Ask: **What did you learn about God's family from today's mission story?** Point out that no situation or circumstance is too difficult for God.



Offering

Say: **We show that we love and care for others in God's family by giving our offerings.**

You Need:

- church-shaped box or musical instrument, such as a drum



Prayer

Have a "popcorn prayer." Tell the children to pray short sentences from anywhere in the room (like popcorn popping). They can thank and praise God for the blessings He has given them, and they can bring any difficult situations or problems to Him.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- two large sheets
- words of Moses' and Miriam's songs where all can see (see lesson)
- tambourines from Readiness A or follow directions in Readiness A and make some before class.

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Moses, Miriam. The remainder of the children represent the children of Israel.

Setting the Scene

Dress the children in Bible-times costumes. Use two large sheets on the floor to represent the sea. When the sea "parts," pull the two sheets apart. Have the children follow Moses through the "sea."

Say: **Have you ever felt things were impossible? Our story today is about a time when the Israelites were in an impossible situation. God had an unexpected solution. Afterward, they sang the song of Moses and Miriam—thanking and praising God for His goodness.**

Read or tell the story.

The Israelites were scared. [*Children crouch by "sea" and look scared.*] They were trapped. Pharaoh and his army were behind them. In front of them was the Red Sea. They felt certain that they would either drown or be taken back to Egypt as slaves.

As they camped by the Red Sea, God's angel and the pillar of cloud that had been showing them the way moved behind them. Throughout the night one side of the cloud kept Pharaoh's army in darkness. On the other side, the cloud looked like fire and gave light and warmth to the Israelites. Pharaoh's army could not get near them.

The Lord told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea [*Moses stretches out hand.*], and he did. All night long, God

sent a wind to blow back the sea. The wind caused the sea to divide. [*Pull the two sheets apart.*] When it was almost morning, the Israelites walked through the sea! [*Have the children walk through the middle of the "sea."*] Walls of water stood to their right and to their left. But the ground where they walked was dry!

Pharaoh's army followed the Israelites into the sea. [*Children turn and look at imaginary Egyptians following them.*] But their chariots got stuck and would not move. "God is with the Israelites," they screamed. "Let's get away from them!"

Then God said to Moses, "Hold your hand over the sea." [*Moses stretches hand out.*] Then the water came crashing back, and all Pharaoh's army drowned.

When the Israelites saw this, they could hardly believe their eyes. They were so relieved and happy! Everyone started singing and praising God.

Their song told how God saved them from Pharaoh's army. Let's "sing" it together: [*Direct attention to the words of the song written where everyone can read it.*]

"I will sing to the Lord

because he is worthy of great honor.

He has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea. . . .

The enemy bragged, 'I'll chase them and catch them.' . . .

But you blew on them with your breath and covered them with the sea.

They sank like lead in the powerful water.

Are there any gods like you, Lord?

No! There are no gods like you.

You are wonderfully holy.

You are amazingly powerful.

You do great miracles. . . .

You keep your loving promise.

You lead the people you have saved.

With your strength you will guide them to your holy land. . . .

Lord, that is the place that you made for yourself to live.

Lord, that is the temple that your hands have made.

The Lord will rule forever!" (Exodus 15:1–18, ICB).

Moses' and Aaron's sister, Miriam, was so happy, she grabbed her tambourine and started dancing and singing. All the other women played their tambourines and danced and sang with her. Miriam sang: *[Have all the girls move in a circle and shake their tambourines.]*

"Sing to the Lord because he is worthy of great honor.

He has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea" (Exodus 15:1, ICB).

Moses, Miriam, and the Israelites sang about two things at the same time. They sang about being saved while crossing the Red Sea. They may have also been looking forward and singing about what would happen in the future—how God will save His children and take them to live with Him in heaven. We can all sing the song to celebrate how God has helped His family through the ages, continues to help us today, and will help us in the future. *[Sing the song again, letting the children move around and shake their tambourines.]*

Debriefing

Say: **Imagine that you were with the Israelites. How would you have felt when trapped between the army and the Red Sea? How would you have felt about God's solution?**

Why do you think Miriam and Moses led the people in singing? Deuteronomy 20:4 tells us that our God goes with us to fight and save us.

God loves doing impossible things for His children. Say today's message with me:



GOD LOVES AND CARES FOR US.

Memory Verse

Form a circle and move around as if the children are part of Miriam's "dance." While walking in the circle, have the children clap hands or shake their tambourines and read the words of the memory verse.

Repeat several times until you are sure that the children know the words. The memory verse is: **"I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted" (Exodus 15:1).**

Bible Study

In advance, write the following texts on pieces of paper and bury them in a large pan of sand. (For large groups you may need several sets.)

Divide the children into four small groups. Be sure that each group has an adult to help nonreaders.

Say: **Let's dig into God's Word and find out about some other people who were in situations that seemed to be impossible. When you find a text, discuss it with your group.**

Have one person from each group "dig" in the sand to find a text.

Matthew 14:29–31 (Peter walked on water.)

Exodus 2:6–8 (Baby Moses found by the princess.)

Daniel 6:19–22 (Daniel in the lions' den)

2 Kings 2:6–8 (Elijah parts waters of Jordan River.)

Allow time for the groups to share their findings.

You Need:

- tambourines (optional)
- memory verse written so all can see it

You Need:

- large pan/ bucket of sand
- four pieces of paper
- Bibles

Debriefing

Ask: **Can you think of others in the Bible who faced impossible situations? How would you like to trade places with them? With God, nothing is impossible. Jesus has solutions for every situation. He is taking care**

of us, even when things seem to be impossible! Remember:



GOD LOVES AND CARES FOR US.

Say that with me.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- 3 or 4 baking pans
- blindfold
- water
- plastic bags

Impossible Maze

Make a maze using three or four baking pans half full of water. Place plastic bags under the pans to protect the floor.

Ask for a volunteer to remove their shoes and stockings and try to walk through the maze blindfolded, without getting their feet wet.

Let everyone who wants to try have a turn. Then say: **Now you can have a friend to guide you.** Repeat the exercise allowing everyone to have the opportunity to lead or be led through the maze. Have paper towels or clean towels to dry feet that might get wet.

Debriefing

Ask: **Were you in an impossible**

situation without any help? How about when you were helping the blindfolded person? What was it like when your friend helped you? How did it feel to have someone help you?

How was this experience like God's care for us?

We have someone who is always on hand to help us no matter what the situation or how difficult it is. God loves and cares for us. He delights in doing difficult things. Let's say today's message together:



GOD LOVES AND CARES FOR US.

Sharing the Lesson

Separating the Red Sea

Distribute the supplies. Then demonstrate each step as you give the following directions (see picture):

Fold a piece of blue construction paper into thirds by folding both end sections toward the middle. Then fold each end section back halfway so that the edges line up. Partially open the "Red Sea" and color fish in the side parts of "water." Glue sandpaper or light brown paper in the middle of the "sea."

Divide the children into pairs and ask them to share the story of God's rescue from Israel's impossible situation with each other. Ask them to share any "impossible" situations they may have faced (or are facing) and talk about solutions.

Say: **Would anyone like to share a time when God helped them? God helped Moses, Miriam, and the Israelites, and He can help us too.**

Encourage the children to share positive outcomes that helped them and/or their family.

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you feel knowing that no matter what the situation you are in, God has not just one, but many solutions?**

Say: **Now that you have shared with one another, think of someone not in this class with whom you would like to share what we have studied today. Take your paper home and show it to that person as you tell them how God saved the Israelites and about the song of praise Moses and Miriam and the Israelites sang. You can teach them today's message too. Let's say it together:**



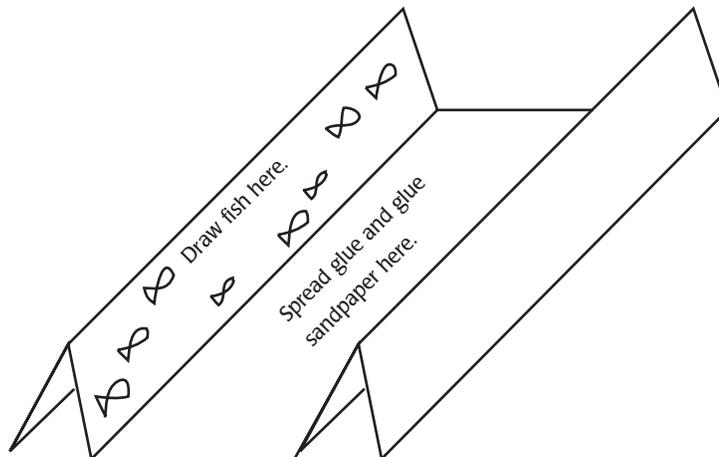
GOD LOVES AND CARES FOR US.

Closing

Invite the children to stand in a circle. Thank God for loving and caring for us all the time. Pray for those who may face difficult situations in the week ahead.

You Need:

- blue construction paper
- crayons or markers
- sandpaper or light brown paper (grocery bags are ideal)



Seashore Song

References

Exodus 14; 15;
Psalm 106:1–12;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*,
pp. 287–290

Memory Verse

“I will sing to the
LORD, for he is
highly exalted”
(Exodus 15:1, NIV).

The Message

God loves and
cares for us.

Have you ever been scared or frightened and did not know what to do? That is just how the children of Israel felt at the beginning of our story. Read on to find out how their fear was transformed into joy.

The Israelites were trapped and they were afraid. Pharaoh and his army were behind them. In front of them was the Red Sea. They felt certain that they either would drown or be taken back to Egypt as slaves.

As they camped by the Red Sea, God’s angel and the pillar of cloud that had been showing them the way moved behind them. Throughout the night one side of the cloud kept Pharaoh’s army in darkness. On the other side, the cloud looked like fire and gave light and warmth to the Israelites. Pharaoh’s army could not get near them.

The Lord told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea. All night long, God sent a wind to blow back the sea. The wind caused the sea to divide. When it was almost morning, the Israelites walked through the sea! Walls of water stood to their right and to their left. But

the ground where they walked was dry!

Pharaoh’s army followed the Israelites into the sea.

But the Lord made them panic. Suddenly, their chariots would not move! “God is with the

Israelites,” they screamed. “Let’s get away from them!” But they could not.

Again God said to Moses, “Hold your hand over the sea.” He did. And the walls of water came crashing down, and all Pharaoh’s army drowned.

When the Israelites saw this, they could hardly believe their eyes. They were so relieved and happy! Everyone started singing and praising God. Their song told how God saved them from Pharaoh’s army. Let’s “sing” it together:

“I will sing to the Lord
because he is worthy of great honor.

He has thrown the horse and its rider
into the sea. . . .

The enemy bragged, ‘I’ll chase them
and catch them.’ . . .

But you blew on them with your
breath and covered them with the sea.

They sank like lead in the powerful
water.

Are there any gods like you, Lord?

No! There are no gods like you.

You are wonderfully holy.

You are amazingly powerful.

You do great miracles. . . .

You keep your loving promise.

You lead the people you have saved.

With your strength you will guide
them to your holy land. . . .

Lord, that is the place that you made
for yourself to live.

Lord, that is the temple that your
hands have made.

The Lord will rule forever!” (Exodus
15:1–18, ICB).

Moses’ and Aaron’s sister, Miriam, was so happy. She grabbed her tambourine and started dancing and singing. All the other women played their tambourines and danced and sang with her. Miriam sang:

“Sing to the Lord because he is
worthy of great honor.



He has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea” (Exodus 15:21, ICB).

Moses, Miriam, and the Israelites sang about two things at the same time. They sang about being saved while crossing the Red Sea. They may have also been looking forward and singing about the future—how God will save His children and take them to heaven. We can all sing the song. We, too, can celebrate. God has helped His family through the ages. He continues to help us today. And He will help us in the future.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go for a walk with your family by a river, lake, or sea. As you walk, see how many Bible stories you can think of that are connected with water. Find a quiet place and read your lesson together.
- Imagine what it would look like if the water divided to create a path through the middle.
- Thank God for water.

Sunday

- Make a praise instrument using an empty plastic container, paper towel tube, or other container. Put some small stones or dried beans inside to make it rattle. Tape paper over the openings. Play your new instrument as you sing a praise song at worship time.
- Draw 12 big music notes on a piece of paper and write one word of the memory verse in each. Repeat the verse, shaking your instrument with the rhythm of the words. Teach the verse to your family.
- Thank God for music.

Monday

- For family worship, take turns reading a verse at a time from Exodus 15:1–18.
- Fill a shallow pan with water. Try to blow a path of “dry” land. A straw may make it easier. What happens as soon as you stop blowing?
- Ask two people to tell you about an impossible situation. How did God help them?
- Ask your family to help you find a promise of help in the Bible.
- Thank God for being with you in impossible situations.

Tuesday

- Look up the following texts to discover other times God did the impossible: 2 Kings 6:18; 2 Kings 20:5; Acts 12:7; Acts 28:3–5.
- Look at a Bible map and find the Red Sea. Discover the sea nearest to your home.
- Pray that God will be with all those who are traveling on water.

Wednesday

- Make an obstacle course. Blindfold some members of your family and let them try it first without help; then with help.
- Talk about ways that God is our guide.
- Miriam led the Israelites in songs of praise. In what other ways can we praise God?
- Write a poem or rap praising God for caring for your family. Read it as a prayer.

Thursday

- During worship, read Revelation 15:2–4. Who will sing the song of Moses in the future?
- Draw two pictures: one of the Israelites after they escaped from the Egyptians, and one of the people on the sea of glass.
- Thank God that He sent His Son, Jesus, to make it possible for us to stand on the sea of glass.

Friday

- Ask your family to help you act out your lesson story during worship. Read the song of Moses and Miriam in Exodus 15. Then sing your own song of praise.
- Thank God for the Sabbath, and for being with you everywhere you go.